



5TH ANNUAL

# New Wisconsin Promise CONFERENCE

## Closing the Achievement Gap

**January 13-14, 2009**

**Monona Terrace**

**Madison, WI**



**Featured Speakers**

**Conference Tracks**

**Call for Proposals**

**Registration**

**Pre-conference  
(January 12th)**

**Agenda**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
ELIZABETH BURMASTER, STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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# State Superintendent Message



Professional development is a cornerstone of high-quality teaching, and our New Wisconsin Promise conference offers an unparalleled professional development opportunity for educators from Milwaukee to Maple. Each year, national educational leaders, school district and building administrators, and classroom teachers share creative and innovative ideas that enhance teaching and learning across our state and nation.

We must achieve our goal to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed in school and in life. In so doing, we can and must eliminate any and all obstacles to learning for all students, and close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers. To that end, we offer advice, expertise, and training in the following areas:

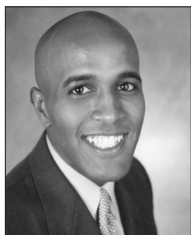
- 21st century skills
- district and school improvement
- engagement in learning

I have heard from many past New Wisconsin Promise conference attendees that our offerings re-energize them, and they return to their schools and classrooms determined to share what they've learned with their colleagues. In so doing, they rededicate themselves to increasing achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap.

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent

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# Speakers - Conference & Pre-Conference



## **Keynote address by Mawi Asgedom**

As a child, Mawi fled civil war in Ethiopia and survived a Sudanese refugee camp for three years. After being resettled in the United States, Mawi overcame welfare, language barriers, and personal tragedy to graduate from Harvard University. Mawi will inspire you while sharing best practices from his decade of helping students excel. Mawi Asgedom has written four books used in thousands of classrooms across North America and has spoken to over 500,000 students and educators.



## **Keynote address by Dr. Jennifer James**

Jennifer James is a cultural anthropologist, lecturer, writer, and commentator, who is known to audiences around the world for her innovative ideas. She works on an international level with educational agencies, corporations, and associations helping people meet the challenges of today's transitions that require thinking in different ways. Her speeches and seminars deal with the human face of technological change and the development of cultural intelligence. Dr. James is a specialist in areas of cultural change, diversity, and marketing intelligence.



## **Keynote address by Dr. Gwendolyn Webb-Johnson**

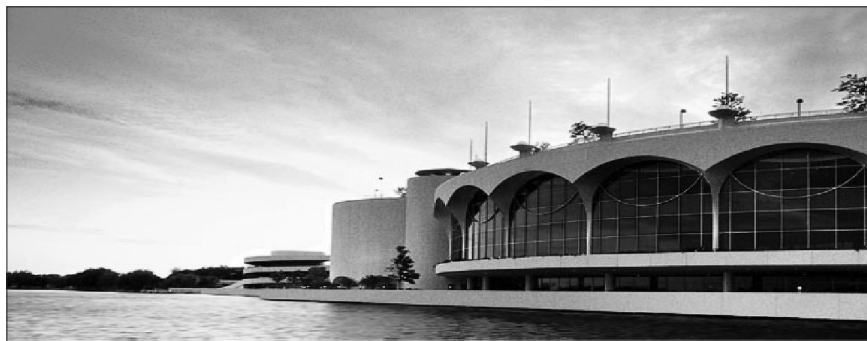
Dr. Webb-Johnson is Associate Professor in the College of Education & Human Development at Texas A&M University, Department of Special Education. Dr. Webb-Johnson's areas of expertise include: curriculum and instructional development, multicultural education, parental/family involvement, public school administration, and recruitment and retention of culturally diverse students in higher education. The keynote address will focus on improving academic achievement in culturally diverse schools through parent/community involvement.



## **Pre-conference session on Response to Intervention (RtI) with**

**Dr. George Batsche**, Professor of Psychological and Social Foundations Coordinator of Graduate Programs in School Psychology, University of South Florida. In addition to his work in the area of RtI, Dr. Batsche is an expert in the areas of bullying, adolescent depression, aggression, and violence prevention. Dr. Batsche has shared his work on NBC Today, Oprah Winfrey, and 20/20. As part of the 2009 preconference, Dr. Batsche will review the principles of RtI via a multi-step approach to providing

services through increasing levels of intensity to students who struggle to learn. Utilization of the RtI process by educators has the potential to prevent academic failure of our students and reduce special education referrals and behavior problems.



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# Conference Tracks

## **1. 21st Century Skills**

- Core Subjects
- Response to Intervention
- National Certification and Wisconsin Master Educator
- PI 34
- Professional Learning Communities

## **2. District and School Improvement**

- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Planning and Assessment
- Models of Success

## **3. Engagement in Learning**

- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Parent and Community Involvement
- Poverty
- Differentiation of Instruction

# 2009 New Wisconsin Promise Conference

## Closing the Achievement Gap

### **Presentation Proposals**

Presentations by teachers, principals, support staff, and other educators are the backbone of this conference. Please submit a proposal to share successful practices, programs, and strategies that have made an impact on student learning and achievement. Proposals need to be submitted on line no later than September 12, 2008.

Each proposal will go through a selection process. Each will be screened for clear, concise descriptions of practical strategies or models that are effective in closing the achievement gap. Rubrics used for rating the proposals are available on the website.

Free conference registration is offered to up to two presenters for each sectional, when the presenters are employed by any K-16 public education agency in Wisconsin. Other presenters must pay the regular registration fee if they plan to participate in any other part of the conference.

Most presenters volunteer their services and are not paid for their presentations or reimbursed for substitutes or other expenses. Any variance from this practice must be pre-approved by the conference coordinator in writing.

### **Music Performance Proposals**

Two or three music performing groups will be selected to perform at the conference.

Both the presentation proposal and music performance proposal links are on the main conference web page at <http://dpi.wi.gov/nwp/conference/html>. You will be asked to provide a recording.

### **Registration**

Early-bird conference registration for the two days of the conference is \$115 per participant through December 14, 2008. From December 15 through January 5, the registration fee is \$150 per person. Online registration closes on January 5.

Early-bird pre-conference registration is an additional \$100 per person, which goes up to \$125 after December 14.

Online registration is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/nwp/conference/html>. This site also contains lodging and parking information.

For more information, please contact Elaine Granke, Conference Coordinator, at (608) 267-1294, or, [G.Elaine.Granke@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:G.Elaine.Granke@dpi.wi.gov).

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# Pre-Conference Session

## **Monday, January 12**

The pre-conference session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 and lunch will also be provided. Capacity is limited to 200. Registration fee is in addition to the regular conference fee. For information on pre-conference registration, please refer to page 4.

George Batsche's presentation will focus on the rationale for Response to Intervention (RtI), the essential components of an implementation plan and the outcomes that can be expected for students, families, and educators. The workshop will cover the definition of RtI; foundations in Research, Practice, and Statute; core principles and key components; an example of a tiered model; policy issues; professional development issues; using RtI data and processes to guide eligibility for student special services; and suggested resources. The presentation will focus on how to develop and maintain consensus to implement RtI, the components that are necessary to ensure that the infrastructure is in place, and the policies/procedures and decision rules (intervention effectiveness and eligibility) to ensure consistent implementation.

Dr. Batsche is one of the most highly regarded experts in the nation on Problem Solving and RtI. He is Co-director of the Institute for School Reform and the Florida Statewide Problem-Solving RtI Project at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is co-author of Response to Intervention: Policy Consideration and Implementation for the National Association of State Directors of Special Education in 2005. Dr. Batsche is a contributing author to The Handbook of Response to Intervention: The Science and Practice of Assessment and Intervention (NASDSE, 2007) and Co-Author of Response to Intervention: Competing Views (Assessment for Effective Intervention, 2006). Dr. Batsche has provided support to Project ASPIRE in Illinois, and has been involved in the implementation of the Problem Solving Model at the state, district, and building levels for the past two decades.

# Conference Agenda

Tuesday, January 13	
7:00	Breakfast Conference Check-in
8:15	Music Performance
8:30	Welcome: <i>Elizabeth Burmaster</i>
9:00	Keynote: <i>Mawi Asgedom</i>
10:15	Sectional Presentations
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Keynote: <i>Dr. Jennifer James</i>
2:00	Sectional Presentations
Wednesday, January 14	
7:00	Breakfast Conference Check-in
8:00	Keynote: <i>Dr. Gwendolyn Webb-Johnson</i>
9:15	Sectional Presentations
12:00	Lunch, Music
1:00	Sectional Presentations
2:30	Conference Adjourns

**For more information, please contact**

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<http://dpi.wi.gov/nwp/conference.html>

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